

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RFOBER,JR.:SLB

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R 242216Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210340

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR SCHNEIDER FROM OBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IN

SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN MAAGS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 11945 (B) NEW DELHI 12262

(C) STATE 208561

1. INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT INDICATE THAT THE EMBASSY'S STRONG FEELING AGAINST TAKING ON REGIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITIES (REF B) IS WIDELY SHARED AND CINCPAC'S RECOMMENDATION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ADOPTED. NEA/INS AND NEA/RA CONCUR ENTIRELY WITH YOUR MESSAGE. PM THINKS THE BEST COURSE IS FOR DOD/DSAA TO PROVIDE PERIODIC TDY SUPPORT TO KATHMANDU, COLOMBO AND KABUL TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. HOWEVER, NO ONE AT THIS POINT CAN SAY WHAT THE LIKELY FINAL SOLUTION WILL BE, AND THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD ARE NOT IN A POSITION YET TO RESPOND AUTHORITATIVELY TO YOUR MESSAGE.

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2. WITH RESPECT TO THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN ABOUT PUBLICITY (REF A), WE WERE TOLD THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT (REF C) ON THE REDUCTION OF THE MAAGS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY WAS PLANNED TO BE VERY LOW-KEY. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO PRACTICAL WAY INDIA COULD BE EXCISED FROM THE STATEMENT OR SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL HANDLING. IT'S CONCEIVABLE AN INDIAN JOURNALIST MIGHT PICK IT UP. AS FAR AS HANDLING THE ISSUE VIS A VIS THE GOI, WE ARE AWARE OF NO OBJECTION TO THE APPROACH YOU SUGGEST ALTHOUGH THE LEGAL TYPES ARE CURRENTLY RESEARCHING THE QUESTION OF WHAT AGREEMENTS WE HAVE WITH WHICH AFFECTED COUNTRIES TO SEE WHERE A FORMAL EMBASSY NOTE IS REQUIRED. I ASSUME WE DO NOT HAVE ANY WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE INDIANS REGARDING ODRI OR ITS PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATION. KISSINGER

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